

THE MCGILL DAILY

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Wednesday, March 31, 1993

Union backlash over UI scandalizes government

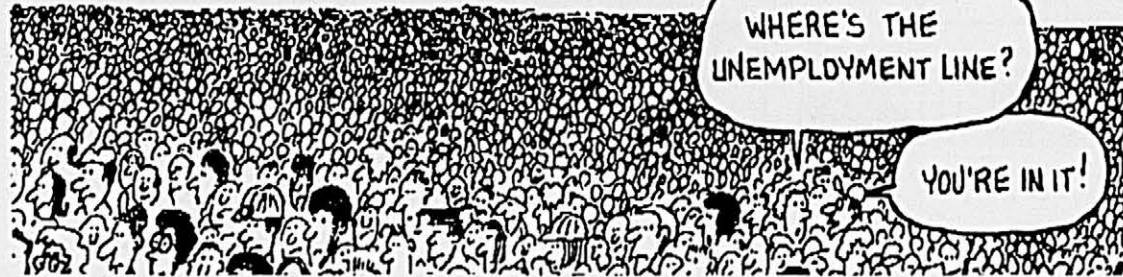
BY KATHY BUNKA

On Friday, the Public Service Alliance of Canada, a coalition group of 18 unions including the Canada Employment and Immigration Union (CEIU), began to distribute a booklet intended to help the Canadian public to secure unemployment insurance benefits.

The booklet entitled "For a Just Cause" is a rare act of defiance by government employees. The booklet is prefaced with the statement, "We feel our primary responsibility is to the people we serve and not to the Conservative government."

The publication was created in response to changes to Bill C-105, which has been condemned by unions and other public interest groups. The act, introduced on December 10, disqualifies people who quit their jobs without "just cause" or are fired for misconduct from receiving benefits.

The government was not pleased by their employees' actions. A week before the publication of the booklet, the Ontario office of Employment and Immigration Canada sent an e-mail notice to managers of



employment and immigration offices across Ontario warning them not to permit the distribution of such material on government premises.

The letter indicated that the authorities had not yet determined whether the content of the booklet constituted public criticism of the government's UI program.

Nancy Bennett, Ontario region communications manager for the ministry, said the purpose of the notice was to remind government employees of policies in place. "There are some things you can do and some you can't," she said.

Commenting on the booklet, Gord Simmons, human resource service director for the Ontario region said, "the booklet goes further than what would be approved of in the Code of Conduct for public serv-

ants."

Criticism of the government would not be tolerated, said Simmons, citing the policy manual, "to minimize possibilities of conflicts arising between private interests and public service duties of employees, and providing for the resolution of such conflicts in the public interest should they arise."

But William de Merchant, legal coordinator for Mouvement Action-Chômage de Montréal, thinks the booklet will provide previously unavailable information to his clients. "It's stimulating to see that workers of employment and immigration are on our side," he said.

Yet he has reservations. "I think it's pretty good, however, it is unfortunate that there is no mention of how to appeal a decision made by the review board," he said. In conversation with the unions collaborating on production of *For a Just Cause*, de Merchant got the impression that they had held back some information for fear of a lawsuit against them.

His office has received a couple

of hundred booklets and has asked for more.

His enthusiasm is mirrored in other parts of the country. Bill Brassington, the business agent with local 452 of the British Columbia Carpenters' Union said that the UI system had reached a crisis point that has been partially resolved by the unions' campaign of defiance.

"Government regulations are too much of a maze for people to figure out. Civil servants are not doing anything wrong, they're there to serve the public," said Brassington.

He said that construction workers who are members of his union are giving up on claiming UI because it is too complex. He stressed that the government should see these new bills as self-defeating, because subsequent growth of the underground economy would deprive the government of huge tax revenues.

While the government tried to define what would constitute "just cause" it was obvious that several people would fall through the cracks in the legislation.

In response Finance Minister Don Mazankowski tabled Bill C-113 on

February 17 to clarify some of the provisions proposed in C-105.

"Bill C-113 maintains a key provision of Bill C-105 that disqualifies from UI benefits those who choose to become unemployed," said Mazankowski in a press release issued the same day.

At present, there are approximately 40 situations recognized as just cause by jurisprudence. Bill C-113 will spell out these grounds in the UI Act. "Just cause" ranges from sexual or other harassment to reasonable assurance of another employment in the immediate future.

But many government employees maintain that the maze of legislation is far too complicated for people to comprehend.

The 12-page booklet is written in a language anyone can understand. It repeatedly criticizes the federal government and the Conservative leadership in particular.

And it condemns the lack of job creation. "It would be the biggest help of all if the Conservative government were to be defeated in the next election," it concludes.

President of the CEIU, Cres Pascucci said over 10 000 English copies and 6000 French copies had been distributed already and that the booklet was going into second printing. "I guess you'd say it's a bestseller," he said.

"Employees of the government challenging the government. It's fun isn't it?"

Chemist attacks incinerator plan

BY DAMION STODOLA

Montréal's newest incinerator plan drew heavy criticism from environmental specialists yesterday at a round table discussion held at the Atwater Library.

Paul Connett, professor of chemistry at St. Lawrence University in New York, said the project was economically unsound, environmentally dangerous, and undemocratic. Connett maintained the Régie had grossly abused citizens rights, and condemned the Régie's recent efforts to hold public meetings.

"Frequently, we confuse democracy with public hearings," he said. "When they're really only public relations for a decision already made."

The Régie Intermunicipale de Gestion et de Déchets sur l'île de Montréal was formed in 1985 to deal with the growing problem of waste management on the island of Montréal.

They dealt with the problem by awarding a \$200 million contract to the American firm Foster-Wheeler to build and operate an incinerator for the next 20 years. This was done without government approval or public consent. Open meetings were not held until 1992.

Dida Burkow, councillor of Côte St-Luc, said 99 per cent of the councillors didn't know about the decisions made by the Régie executive.

"I did not know anything until Action Rébuts told me of their plan," said Berku. Action Rébuts is a

Montréal anti-garbage activist group.

"You're mortgaging your community for the next 20 years," Connett said. In the half-hour presentation, Connett lectured on the significance of incineration and contrasted it with more environmentally friendly methods.

"Economically and environmentally cold processes [composting and anaerobic composting] make more sense," said Connett. "We have to do what's best for the planet."

Connett attacked incinerator firms for being uncommitted to the 3R's - reduce, re-use, and recycle. The city of Indianapolis, which chose to build an incinerator, was only recycling 0.5 per cent of its garbage.

This compares to Seattle, which postponed the construction of an incinerator in favour of developing a recycling program, and is now recycling 40 per cent of its waste.

Connett also dismissed incineration as a poor solution to garbage reduction because of its unsound principle. "Only those who have not taken high school chemistry want to destroy matter," said Connett. "Those who have know you can only process matter."

Incineration causes many toxins, harmless when left in manufactured form, to be released when subjected to the 2000 degree heat of an incinerator. Connett said the only intelligent and informed solution to waste disposal is composting, which stabilizes toxins to be then safely buried.

150 demonstrators protest Peres

BY AFRA JALABI

Two groups of 150 people faced each other yesterday at the Congress Centre in Ottawa, over the visit of Israeli foreign affairs minister Shimon Peres.

Demonstrators protesting the visit came from a variety of different organizations, including McGill's Palestine Solidarity Committee (PSC) and the Arab Student Associations of Concordia and McGill. Some 30 people bussed from Montréal to attend the event.

"Peres is the most radical figure to represent Israeli military policies," said Adnan Hakiem, Concordia PSC president.

The demonstrators were met by about 150 pro-Israeli demonstrators, including several from McGill. Rabbi Reuben Poupko, Québec chair of the Canadian Jewish Congress, addressed the group, all of whom were well-dressed, the men wearing suits and ties.

Poupko talked about the importance of Zionism in Jewish life, and said terrorism poses a threat to Israel.

Police surrounded the pro-Palestinian group, leaving the other group alone. The McGill Daily reporter was stuck behind police lines and could not interview any pro-Israeli protestors.

The two groups shouted slogans against each other. The pro-Israel protestors chanted "We want Peace" while the pro-Palestinian was responded with "No Justice, no Peace."

At one point the pro-Israeli group danced while singing in Hebrew. One Palestinian protestor was

disheartened by the display.

"Let's not dance back," he advised.

The pro-Israeli group disappeared into the building to greet Peres. Some speakers addressed the pro-Palestinian crowd.

"My family came from Poland. They escaped the Nazis who considered them terrorist because they were part of the Partisan movement," said Abraham Weizfeld of the Jewish People's Liberation Organization.

"I'm here on this side, because I'm still fighting fascism, and all Jewish people who have consciences should speak up," he said. "This is not a conflict between Arabs and Jews. Zionists are lying when they say they represent all Jewish people."

A representative from the El Salvador Women's Collective in Ottawa spoke of the violation of human rights that Palestinian women are facing on a daily basis and she commented on the complicity of the Canadian government toward these issues when hosting somebody like Peres.

After the speakers, some demonstrators burned an Israeli flag and shouted slogans such as "Down, down with Israel".

Other participants were uncomfortable with these actions.

"We shouldn't use insulting slogans. They are the tool of the weak," Charlotte Debbane, a Montréal who grew up in the Middle East.

"We should rather be more concerned about constructive acts of faith. We should stand by our struggle without resorting to negative slogans," she said.

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Gay and lesbian centre sent begging

BY KRISTIN ANDREWS

Montréal's only gay and lesbian community centre may be forced to close its doors for good next month.

The Centre Communautaire des Gaies et Lesbiennes, already badly in debt, has not yet received an answer from government aid programmes to which it has applied for assistance.

Since the Centre first opened in 1988, it has survived on personal donations, discretionary grants from the government, and revenue from fund-raising events. Last year, a lack of predictable income caused

Lack of funds may force closure

the Centre to generate a debt of \$30 000.

"To be able to function, we really need \$150 000 a year," said Robert Philippe Babin, one of eight volunteer staff members at the Centre. This figure does not include a proposed salary for an executive director of the Centre. The ability to hire permanent staff is necessary in order to ensure the long-term viability of the organization, Babin said.

On February 20, the Centre applied for federal aid through a programme which facilitates job

training. But Babin said that this demand, like others, has not been promptly addressed.

"Between where the demand arrives and the top person, there is something stopping us," Babin said. "There is a lot of discrimination [against gays] in the government."

On the other hand, the Gay and Lesbian Centre has developed allies in the government. Provincial representative André Boulerice has pledged his support for the Centre, recently granting it \$3000 out of discretionary funds, and pledging

to help find city-owned space for the Centre.

Gilles Duceppe, also of the provincial government, said he will help to ensure the Centre gets the funding it needs. Boulerice, Duceppe, two municipal councilors and Catholic School Board Superintendent Richard Theoret met with staff at the Centre in order to discuss potential sources of funding, said Duceppe.

The gay and lesbian community centre provides services to over 20 000 people in Montréal each year. The Centre compiles literature on gay and lesbian issues, offers free psychological counseling, organizes

community dances and conferences, and runs a coffee shop and public art gallery.

The Centre Communautaire des Gaies et Lesbiennes is valuable to McGill students, said Rachel Rose, co-coordinator of LBGM (Lesbians, Bisexuals and Gays of McGill). "Their archives are an important source of documentation on hate crimes in the city, and a resource that LBGM doesn't have," she said.

If the Centre does not secure pledges for enough money to cover operating costs and the additional money necessary for paid staff, it will be forced to close at the end of May, Babin said.

Gay activists speak out against harassment, discrimination

BY HASAN KARRAR

Lesbian and gay community activists are pressuring the Québec government to guarantee equal human rights for gays, lesbians and bisexuals. A list of demands was put forward several weeks ago by community activist Roger LeClerc.

"We deserve the right to live and breathe and love and live as any other couple in the world," said Elizabeth Neve, a volunteer at the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre. "We are denied that right. There is a bar in Montreal which is visited by the police every other night just because it is

frequented by gays and lesbians. We are discriminated against each and every day on the basis of our sexual orientation."

LeClerc first presented the demands when gay activists took to the streets on March 1st, to commemorate the slaying of 23-year-old Joseph Rose. Rose was stabbed in front of an AIDS hospice four years ago.

The march was organized by the Table de Concertation des Lesbiennes et des Gaies de Montréal, a group working on establishing a Québec government inquiry into discrimination against queers.

The demands were forwarded to

Justice Minister Gil Rémillard following the protest. They include giving homosexual couples equal rights as those of heterosexuals, an end to harassment by the police and recognition of the gay community as a distinct entity.

Neve said Rémillard agreed to meet with members of the queer community on April 2nd to discuss social issues and discrimination.

But Rémillard's press attache,

Linda Dion, denied the talk had been scheduled. "As far as I know nothing has been planned yet," she said. "The Justice Minister has revised his position and agreed to look into the demands. Currently the Human Rights Commission and the police are investigating the demands."

An article which appeared in the *Gazette* on April 21st said LeClerc threatened to start ousting closeted homosexuals in key government posi-

tions if Rémillard did not address the demands.

But Neve denied the threats were made. "All we said was that if the Human Rights Commission presents its report stating that there's no discrimination against our community, we'll have a big party and invite everyone."

"It's such an obvious paradox. Everyone knows that there's discrimination against homosexuals. The press went wild with that," she added.

New school for a new world

BY ZOREEN NURANEY

At a workshop on Popular Education last Sunday 40 participants learned about education as a medium for social empowerment.

While that sounds revolutionary, coordinator Darren Sigesmond said that, "it is just a healthy approach to group dynamics to help people that come together to express views about issues and to create group solidarity."

This form of educating people traces its roots back to Brazil. Brazilian educator Paulo Freire created and encouraged alternative educational methods to help the citizens of developing countries to understand their societies. Freire's students learned to read and write through discussions of relevant problems such as the lack of access to agricultural land.

In a typical popular education setting, facilitators or group leaders are trained to encourage people to express exactly what they are feeling.

"A good facilitator is one who is a tool that belongs to the group, the oil in the machine, a cheerleader, or the mirror of the group," said Clara Valverde one of the keynote speakers at the workshop session.

She emphasized that in conventional educational settings, teachers dictate knowledge whereas the popular education facilitator relies more on the students in the learning process.

Stacy Chappel said that conventional education is a restrictive discipline and its methodology a form of child abuse.

"Anyone who's been marked on their poetry has been exposed to a form of negative conventional education," said Alex William, another

facilitator. "Using popular education methods you can learn how to learn. Coming together brings a sense of community to a group and therefore power," he continued.

A five step technique is followed in popular education. It begins with identifying and expressing the experience of the participants. The group then identifies patterns, within the participants' lives, adds new information and theory and creates strategies for a specific action.

Participants in the conference were divided into two groups and each group used a different method to encourage participation. In one group, facilitators Chappel and Darren Sigesmond led people in sculpture and theatre activities including improv, mimes and theatre games.

In the other group, Williams used poetry and mural creation to help people to express their feelings. They created poems with appropriate pictures to support their feelings.

But this group of people did not agree about heterosexism and the discussions got off to a rough start.

"In a group that's heterogeneous, it is inevitable that the conflict will come out," said Sigesmond. "It was a

microcosm of the problem existing in society," he said.

Williams said that, "not every group and situation is going to work, but I gave my group a sense of accomplishment regardless of the fact that opinions were different."

Is there a role for popular education in North America? The facilitators believe that there is.

"Even here at McGill, students in seminars could incorporate popular education into their presentations. The biggest obstacle is the professor," said Sigesmond. "If professors can link pertinent experiences to both ours and their lives it would be more enriching."

The objective of the conference was to offer McGill and greater Montreal an alternative and informal approach to education for social change.

Participant Kelly MacCreedy said that she joined the workshop because she wants to use popular education when she works in El Salvador next year.

Herein Montréal, Williams works with *Mise au Jeu*, a theatrical animation and group dynamics organization who use popular education to encourage the groups they visit to work for social change.

ssmu briefs

Southern Africa Committee stays entrenched

Last Thursday Student councillors voted against a motion to dissolve the Southern Africa Committee (SAC) from the Students' Society constitution. If the motion had passed, the question would have been posed to students at a referendum next year.

The motion suggested SAC "no longer merits the attention of the SSMU above all other global rights issues", and should become an interest group, as opposed to a constitutionally entrenched group representing McGill students' commitment to the abolishment of apartheid in South Africa.

Jeff Percival, Students' Society vp external spoke against the motion.

"The accomplishments of SAC represent one of our external affairs triumphs," said Percival. "We fundamentally convinced McGill to divest from South Africa."

Members of SAC urged council to recognize that apartheid is still a reality in every day life in South Africa.

"South Africa has been getting less media attention lately, but we should not assume the problem is solved," said Zadinga Zulu, one of the two coordinators of SAC.

Arnold Kwok, an observing McGill student present at the meeting, said he thought the motion was stupid.

"You don't just go navel gazing, throw the bathwater off the baby and decide to create an interest group," he said.

Students' Society votes to depoliticize

Directly after voting to support the continued existence of the South African Committee (SAC), as a SSMU political group, Student councillors passed a motion which read "SSMU council will not take a stance on external political issues that the council deems to be extremely divisive among McGill students."

"We are talking about issues which are divisive. People are welcome to get together in groups or in clubs, but I do not think it is appropriate for us to take time discussing divisive issues in council," said Aubrey Kassirer, science rep to council.

But other councillors argued the motion was putting a muzzle on council which could be obstructive if SSMU decided they wanted to form a group similar to SAC.

"Why is this motion coming up? Is it because two weeks ago Jewish people and Palestinians were yelling back and forth and we thought 'Whoa, heat! This is divisive, let's avoid this, lock ourselves in a little room and shut out the world?'" said Christoph Sicking, law rep. "It is important to remember students' history and role in issues of human rights," he said.

Incumbent students' society president Jason Prince said the motion would "kill the essence of the student movement at McGill."

— Jonathan Desbarats

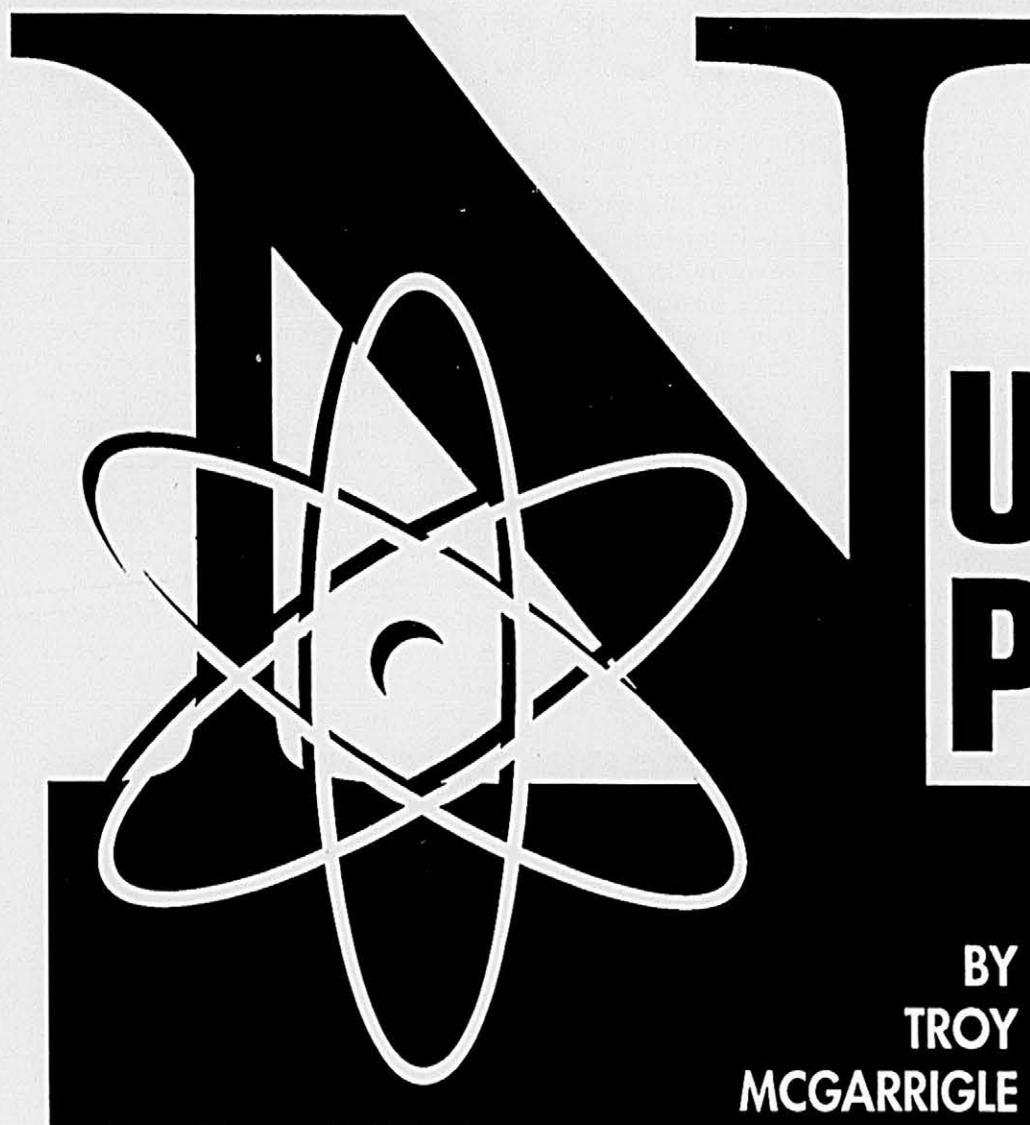
events

Come and discuss the call to found the **Canadian Party for Renewal**. Union B-10. 12h30- 14h. Tel/Fax: 522-4816 (15h- 18h)

McGill-Québec présente **Dr. Rejean Thomas, Spécialiste du Sida**. Café et Beignes offerts gracieusement. Thompson House. 13h30.

The **Organic food co-op** meets at Union 31, 15h. Call Dylan Maxwell (282-6579)

The Palestinian Solidarity Committee and the Arab Network of Students present **Norman Finkelstein speaking on "Theory of Zionism and the Practice of Israeli diplomacy"** Leacock 232, 17h30-19h30.



The Canadian government is determined to promote nuclear energy at all costs. Canada is willing to risk the health of its citizens, to proliferate the explosive used in nuclear weapons, to sacrifice other more efficient means of energy production, and to mislead the public on the facts of nuclear power to pay for the nuclear industry.

Gordon Edwards, President of the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility, said Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL), the crown corporation responsible for nuclear power is not behaving responsibly toward the public.

"The AECL is abusing science for public relations reasons," said Edwards. "The AECL preys on people's ignorance."

The AECL is a crown corporation whose mandates are to develop the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to promote, market and sell nuclear power. Another crown corporation, the Atomic Energy Control Board (AECB), is supposed to monitor the nuclear industry in Canada, watching the movement of controlled substances (such as plutonium), and looking after health and safety in the industry.

In the mid-1970's, the Lamontaine Commission released a report, saying they were alarmed at the degree of conflict of interest between the AECB and the nuclear industry.

The AECB reports to the federal Minister of Energy, Mines, and Resources. This same minister is responsible for the AECL, as well as Cameco, a Canada/Saskatchewan-owned corporation that owns and operates uranium mines and refineries, and one of the world's largest producers of Uranium.

The AECB is responsible for giving research contracts to investigate aspects of the nuclear industry. Many of the contracts are awarded to the nuclear industry itself, instead of to independent bodies such as universities.

In the past, a large portion of the five-member board were ex-AECL officials, people who held very pro-nuclear positions. In recent years, this trend has been changing, with board members being appointed from independent backgrounds.

The AECB allows the AECL to continually misrepresent the facts in public relations material published about the nuclear industry.

In the mid-1970's, a citizen's initiative bid to ban nuclear power in California. This resulted in the formation of an independent commission assigned to study aspects of the nuclear industry, one of which was waste disposal. The commission heard studies from witnesses from all over the world: independent experts, scientists, academics, and thousands of pages of testimony.

The commission concluded that there was absolutely no consensus of a safe method of waste disposal in the scientific community, and that the problem has not been solved, or may never be solved. Evidence showed that it is not prudent to continue building nuclear plants based on an optimistic assumption that waste management technologies will be developed.

PLUTONIUM ECONOMY

Various methods for waste disposal have been proposed, but none have gained consensus among the scientific community as being adequate.

The AECL promotes a plan for deep rock disposal in the granite of the Canadian Shield. The high-level reactor waste will be sealed in canisters, packed in glass beads and placed in an underground cavern that would then be packed with clay. According to the AECL, it would take 500 years for the containers to erode, after which one per cent of the waste will escape, only to be trapped by the packing.

But safe as it all sounds, there is still no guarantee that the waste will stay contained. Geology is not a predictive science. No one knows what effect boreholes and tunneling will have on the structural integrity of a geological formation over a long period of time.

Spent fuel continues to give off heat for a number of years, and no one knows how the

rock will behave under this situation, especially as excavation will create holes and cracks in the rock. Decay heat may make the rock swell and buckle, creating channels for groundwater to flow through.

A tentative waste disposal site in New Mexico was abandoned when it encountered unexpected geological shifts.

Also, the shield is known for the erratic behavior of its underground waterways, and it would be impossible to predict how ground water that will come into contact with the waste will behave. When this happens, the disequilibrium between the waste and rock would act as a driving force for ground water to seep through the cracks and bore holes.

According to Edwards, "the proposal of burying wastes in the shield is only for public relations."

If the wastes produced by North American reactors in one year's operation were to be diluted to acceptable levels, it would take twice all the fresh water in the world.

Science cannot prove that something will not happen; it cannot be proven that waste will not escape over 100 000s of years.

The B. C. Medical Association considers it "irresponsible in the extreme of Canada to allow the further development of uranium mining and reactor construction until a safe, proven, permanent waste disposal technology is developed for the wastes that have already been produced."

The world's economically recoverable uranium supply will run out long before the oil and natural gas supply. In order for the nuclear industry to continue into the 21st century, it will have to go into a plutonium economy.

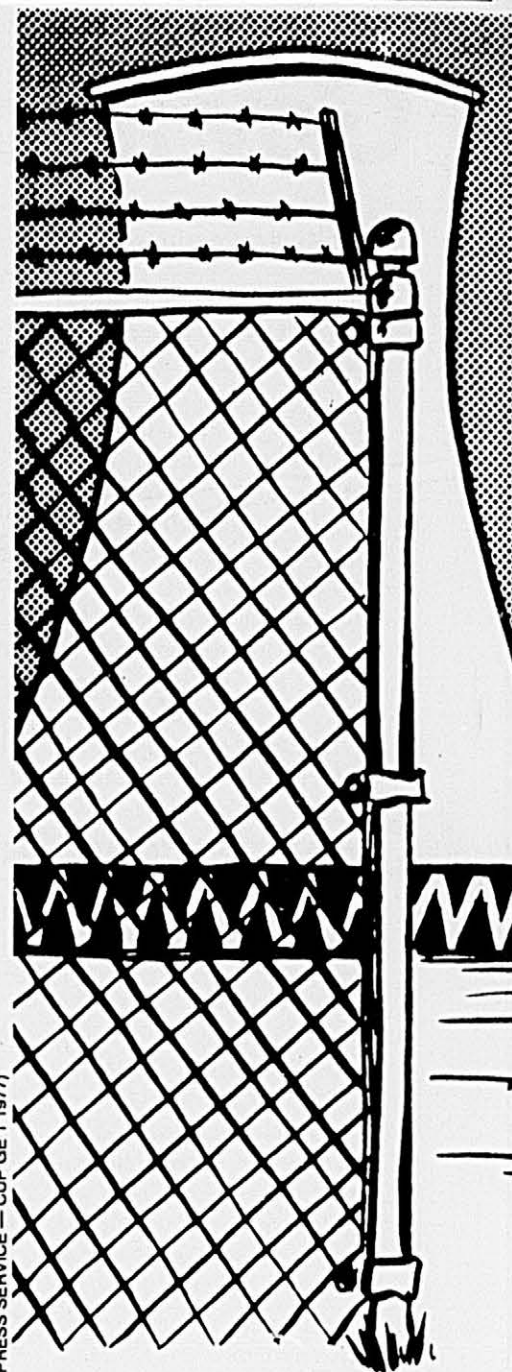
One of the reactor by-products is Plutonium-239. Pu-239 can be reprocessed from spent fuel and reused in a plutonium reactor. The Pu-239 atoms are split, and more Pu-239 atoms are produced. This cycle can extend the fuel lifetime 50 to 100 times.

In reprocessing, the spent fuel is chopped into small pieces and dissolved in nitric acid, and it undergoes other separation processes. Reprocessing releases large amounts of radioactive liquids and gases which are extremely difficult or impossible to contain, and most definitely impossible to contain for 100 000s of years. All reactor wastes produced would be kept at the surface so it is accessible to reprocessing.

Large scale handling of high level radioactive wastes poses a huge threat to the health, safety and security of our society.

Due to a reprocessing plant relocated in Sellafield, England, the North Sea has been found to contain high levels of radioactivity. Plutonium has been found on beaches in Northern England, and even in vacuum cleaner bags of area homes.

And Plutonium is the explosive used in a nuclear bomb. The proliferation of a plutonium economy would complicate the issue of nuclear



weapons control and threaten the maintenance of world peace.

Since World War II, when Canadian scientists assisted European scientists in the secret laboratory hidden on the slopes of Mont Royal, Canada has played a role in providing Plutonium for weapons programs around the world, and gave a major contribution in fostering the nuclear weapons program of the United States, Great Britain, and France. Canada developed the NRX reactor, solely for the purpose of developing Plutonium.

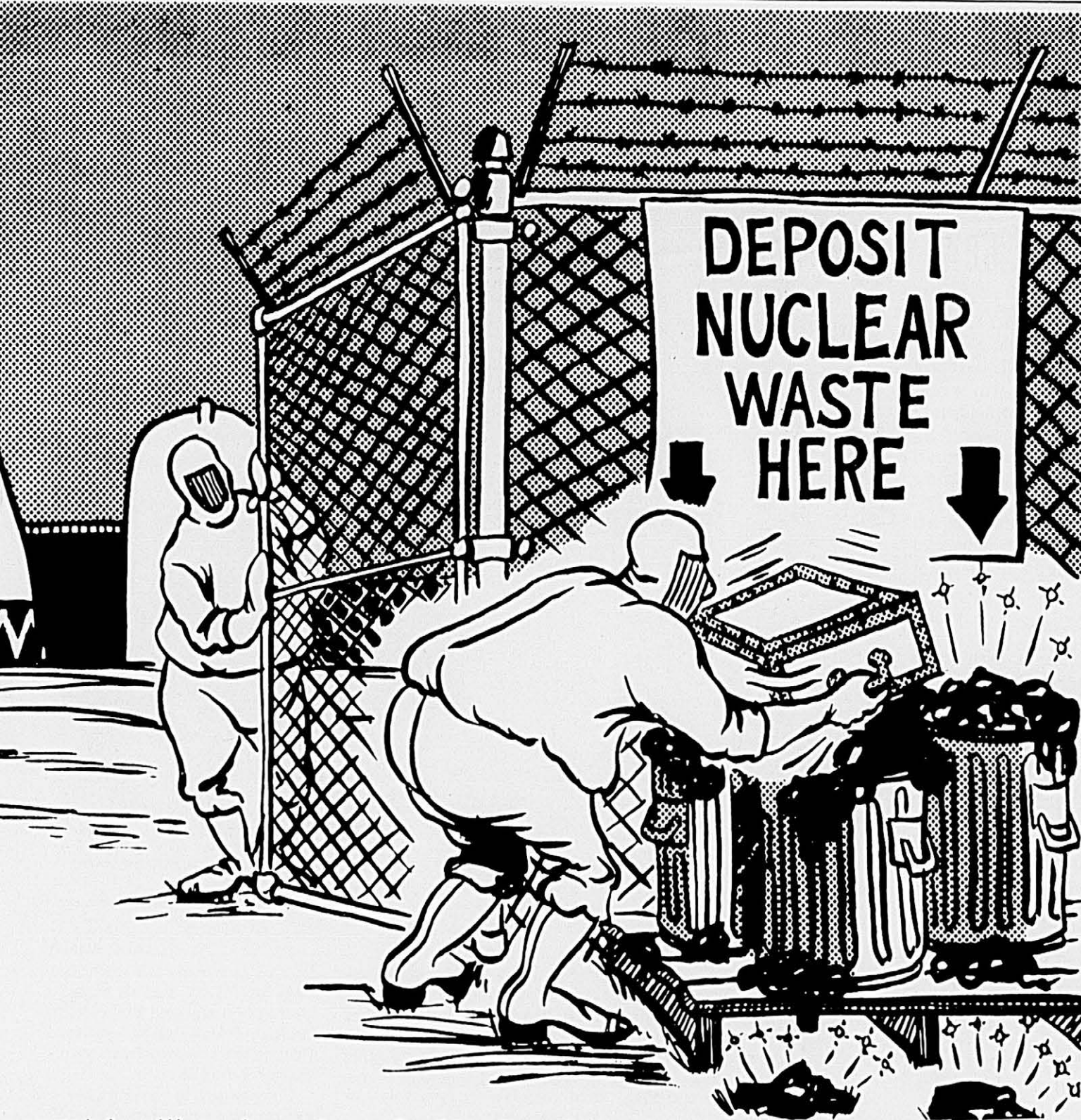
URANIUM MINE TAILINGS

Following W.W.II, Canada made it a policy that it will only proliferate nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, although for two decades virtually all the plutonium made at the Chalk River reactor was sold to the United States and England for military uses.

In 1956 Canada gave India an NRX plutonium reactor (with an estimated value of \$10 million) on the promise that it would be used for only peaceful purposes. It became clear to the world that the military and peaceful uses of nuclear energy were inseparable when India exploded its first nuclear warhead in 1974.

Pakistan, Taiwan, Argentina, and South Korea are other countries that benefited Canada's nuclear technology, and subsequently developed the bomb. Even under international supervision, Taiwan managed to develop a clandestine reprocessing plant.

An international double standard exists. The Western world can stockpile as many weapons as it wants, but other countries cannot. This standard cannot hold much longer, and as long as plutonium production continues, weapons proliferation will (continue) until almost every



BAD BUSINESS

On top of the health, safety, environmental and security risks, nuclear fission is not a cost-effective way to produce electricity.

Since its debut in nuclear technology, Canada has spent \$17 billion (1992 dollars) in subsidies to the nuclear industry. In terms of energy research, Canada spends \$150 million annually on nuclear research, compared to \$88 million spent on all other energy forms combined. According to the AECL, nuclear energy only comprises 15 per cent of Canada's total energy supply.

The nuclear industry advertises a low cost per kilowatt-hour of its electricity. This price includes construction costs, fuel, maintenance and operation, planned outages, waste disposal and decommissioning. However, the industry has a history of underestimating these costs.

A nuclear power plant is only useful for twenty to thirty years, and afterwards it remains dangerously radioactive for thousands of years. Decommissioning, the term used to describe the dismantling of the structure, has to take place afterwards.

"The decommissioning of Gentilly-2 was estimated to cost \$400 million, but by the time it was completed it cost \$1.2 billion," said Edwards. "The decommissioning cost for a plant in upstate New York had been estimated at over \$500 million, although only \$3 million had been set aside during the plant's lifetime for this."

An old estimate was \$3 million to decommission one reactor, but the retubing of Pickering 1 and 2 cost \$700 million.

All reactors will need repair in their lifetime. Because of neutron irradiation, tubes surrounding the fuel bundles expand in size, and need to be replaced every 15 years, and blistering effects could shorten this to every 10 years.

Last year, Ontario raised rates by 30 per cent to make up for poor nuclear performance. In early March, the *Globe and Mail* reported that Ontario Hydro was forced to operate each reactor at the Bruce complex at maximum 60 per cent for safety reasons. This means tens of millions of dollars in added costs, because fossil fuels will have to be bought as a replacement energy source.

Ontario invested billions of dollars into nuclear power, and as a result has a power surplus. In the past year, Ontario Hydro was forced to turn down a number of cogeneration bids, even though this is the most effective and environmentally friendly form of energy production. Edwards stated that these proposed cogeneration bids would have produced power equivalent to two Darlington Nuclear Plants.

England's ex-Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's privatization of the electricity revealed the true costs of nuclear power. Business refused to buy the reactors, and Thatcher was forced to withdraw them from the privatization package.

If the nuclear industry in Canada was privatized, it would immediately be out of business.

country in the world has a nuclear arsenal.

The AECL relates nuclear power to medicine, and publicizes the "health benefits of radiation."

Radiation is *not* healthy. When a radioactive particle is ingested, the decay products damage the body's cells, reducing the body's defenses against infectious diseases. Cells damaged by radiation can begin cancerous growths in places such as the lungs, bone or skin.

It takes many years for the cancer to develop after the radioactive particle is ingested by the body. Because of this, it is impossible to determine if the cancer was caused by radiation.

Genetic defects in children are caused by damage inflicted to sperm or egg cells by radiation. Genetic defects can result in gross deformities or mental retardation. A recent study conducted by the British Medical Association showed that children of men who work in the Sellafield nuclear plant experience a much higher frequency rate of leukemia.

The medicine and industrial uses of radiation do not depend in any way on the uranium trade. Radioisotopes used in medicine, agriculture, and industry do not have to be produced in a nuclear reactor, but can be produced in cyclotrons and other types of accelerators.

In the United States there exists the US. General Accounting Office, and the US. Geological Survey. These are both independent monitoring groups of the American nuclear industry. In Canada, no such independent bodies exist. The environment department in Ottawa has no mandate on nuclear issues.

Scientists consider that a fraction of cancers and spontaneous birth defects that occur are caused by natural background radiation. The AECL considers natural radiation a fact of life, and that radiation added to the biosphere is irrelevant because of the radiation already existing there. Risking the health and safety of millions

of people is another cost that the nuclear industry is willing to pay. Uranium mine tailings are the rock left over after the uranium is removed from the ore. There is 175 million of tons of uranium tailings with low-level radioactivity in Canada. These tailings have been described by the *Wall Street Journal* as "an economic and ecological time bomb."

The AECL promotes that "the solid tailings are no more hazardous than was the original rock," Edwards disagrees.

"Stating that the tailings are not hazardous is absolute irresponsibility and scientifically false," he said.

Edwards maintained the uranium tailings pose a more serious health risk to the public than any other aspect of the nuclear industry. The uranium removed from the rock represents only one-seventh of the total radioactivity of the rock. The remaining radioactivity stays in the tailings, which are piled at the site of the mine. The amount of radon, a radioactive gas, will not diminish for 5000 to 10 000 years. After 80 000 years the quantity of radioactivity in the tailings will only have reduced by one-half.

When in the ground, radioactive decay particles are trapped by the rock formation. Radon is trapped when released until it decays to the next product on the decay chain.

On the average, it takes about 1000 kg of ore to produce 1 or 2 kg of uranium (the uranium mines in Northern Saskatchewan are the richest in the world, and get between 20 and 40 kg of uranium for 1000 kg of ore). In the production process, the ore is ground to a sand/flour-like composition. This greatly increases the surface area per volume of the ore, allowing radioactive particles to escape into the atmosphere.

Tailings are piled at the site of the mine where they can drift like sand and blow in the wind. The radioactive particles can be breathed in by ani-

mals and people, and they can accumulate in water supplies.

At Rabbit Lake, Saskatchewan, in November of 1989, 2 million litres of radioactive liquid waste was spilled into a creek, and this was followed in January of 1990 by a 90 thousand litre spill at the same site. At Key Lake, Saskatchewan in January of 1984, an over-filled "state-of-the-art" contaminant dam failed, spilling 100 million litres of radioactive water into a nearby bog.

Radioactivity content in fish, insects, clams, and plants have been shown to increase downstream from uranium mines, and the increase is more dramatic downstream from older mines. If the increase by older mines is pronounced over several decades, the contamination that could exist after several centuries is inconceivable if the tailings are not properly dealt with.

The United States has laws requiring the covering of uranium tailings. In Canada, such laws do not exist.

Nuclear power's time has gone. Canada now has to look for safer forms of energy, ones that will not impinge on the health and safety of our society, and on the societies that will exist for 100 000's of years.

It has to begin by establishing a truly independent group to monitor the industry. The Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility is calling for a ten year moratorium on nuclear development until firm conclusions can be made about how to dispose of existing wastes.

It does not make sense to continue to produce radioactive waste when an effective method of disposal does not exist.

The "scientific paternalism" that exists in the industry has to stop. The people who will suffer the consequences of the industry, the public, have to be informed of the risks. The decision lies in their hands.

THE MCGILL DAILY

comment

What's wrong with this picture?

This grisly image of an emaciated, exhausted young Black Sudanese girl appeared on the third page of last Friday's issue of the *New York Times*, "America's newspaper of record." The child has collapsed out of hunger and thirst, her ribs protruding from her paper-thin skin. A vulture patiently waits in the background, seeing the opportunity for a meal.

The fact that someone could take a picture of her in a voyeuristic, callous manner is not only blatantly offensive but it is telling of the manner in which the media in the "West" has represented Africa.

To the reader, this Black African girl is presented as another helpless victim sacrificed in the midst of carnage and brutality. She is depicted as nothing more than a rotting animal carcass in the arid desert of Africa, an unfortunate victim of the natural cycle of life which is Africa. She has been robbed of her humanity.

The vulture is a nice addition to the shot.

What is perverse about this image is the manner in which people have become used to it. Such images of Africa no longer affect their sensibilities. Why is this image acceptable to people?

And what did the photojournalist Kevin Carter do to intervene in this situation? It is frightening to think he could observe another human being in such agony, and not immediately move to help her. The caption gives no indication of this young girl's fate. Apparently the *New York Times* doesn't expect people to be interested.

It has become commonplace to see African children wasting away, flies surrounding their faces as the reader laments their unfortunate plight — pity our poor African sisters and brothers, and turn to the next page.

Because we only see Black African people as victims, we assume that victimhood and suffering is their natural state. These people are the victims of their own harsh environment and their own barbaric genocidal leaders.

The duplicity of "our" leaders in contributing to their condition is of course ignored.

That girl had a family. She had a mother, father, possibly sisters and brothers. She has a past. But her life has become essentialized. The reader sees her only as an animal carcass.

This picture is voyeurism at its best, abject racism at its worst. It begs the question of whether a picture of, say, a white British child lying near death in the dilapidated streets of Liverpool with a band of rats surrounding his body, would be deemed acceptable to be printed on the very same page.

To the editor of the *New York Times*, I would imagine the presentation of such an image would be unfathomable, and rightly so. The question must be posed why this image would not be acceptable, and the image of the young Sudanese girl is.

According to news organizations like the *New York Times*, Africa is FAMINE, WAR, DEVASTATION. Images like this one serve to compound the image that Africa is all the same, one big mass of suffering, hunger and flies. The complexities of the continent, the cultures, languages and political situations there are never discussed.

We only hear about certain cultures in particularly tragic, horrific contexts. We become desensitized to the human suffering that is actually occurring in countries like the Sudan, Mozambique, Ethiopia and Somalia. What is deemed to be acceptable when depicting "reality" in the West assumes a different hue when the context is switched to Africa.

Until media networks are held accountable for the racism that they propagate daily, they will continue to follow their voyeuristic and sensational, snapshot and soundbite approach to journalism, and we will continue to be bombarded with such narrow, essentialized images of what is Africa.

Adrian Harewood



"A little girl, weakened from hunger, collapsed recently along the trail to a feeding center in Ayod [in the Sudan]. Nearby, a vulture waited." *New York Times*, 26 March 1993, p. A3.

letters

You stink

To the Daily:

I just seems like the appropriate time of year to send yet another in the ongoing series of spiteful denunciations of the birdcage liner you like to call a newspaper. But, there is a method to this madness.

The Daily has chosen to reprint a Tribune story in order to rail against the supposed racist tendencies of the Students' Society, and presumably the Tribune as well. It wasn't necessary: I'm pretty sure both organizations already knew you didn't like them, and neither really seem to care.

Excluding samosa sales and allowing bake sales would be discriminatory, which, if you read the rest of the news brief, you would have found that the motion in front of SSMU was amended to remove potentially discriminatory elements.

It appears that all white, liberal students are not allowed to speak anymore without attracting your attention and criticism, whether warranted or not. I've noticed your board to be particularly pallid, though. Hypocrisy sure does stink, too.

But seriously, Dan, can't you and your staff of brilliant reactionaries come up with something better to criticize than SSMU's attempts to sanitize Shatner? There must be fascist

insurrectionists or corporate heathens at work somewhere in the Greater Montréal Area that you could tackle; if you keep concentrating on McGill so closely, people might start accusing you of being relevant. I won't make you read between the lines: you stink. I hate your newspaper.

Loathsomely yours,

Michael Broadhurst
U2 Arts

Half-baked treatment

To the Daily:

How bland. Must have been a fast-food Comment day early this week with those deadline alarms blaring. So a couple of staffers, eager to display their palate for the works of Simone de Beauvoir, Tzvetan Todorov, et al., have chosen to nibble on a Tribune news brief (*Daily Comment*, Wednesday, March 17).

I had no idea the term "Samosa Man", coined by Sue Nickerson and used in the headline of the story, conjured up images of "dark" Indian and Pakistani men "stalking" the Shatner Building. In fact, I had never thought of this possibility, not until Chandra and D'Souza were kind enough to enlighten me.

As an eight-year vegetarian and avid fan of Indian, Thai and other Asian cuisine, I would much rather chow

down on such hearty and appetizing foods as samosas than eat what I consider wasteful and dull North American cooking. I will be devastated if I can no longer eat samosas purchased from the Shatner lobby.

Unfortunately, by allowing a news brief reporting a motion to Students' Council to appear in the *Tribune*, I have failed to recognize that I am promoting the objectification of "the Other". Fool that I am, I have at the very least given my tacit approval to blatant discrimination against non-Western foods and the people who prepare them. Shame.

Come on. The issue of objectification is too important to be subjected to the half-baked treatment that Chandra and D'Souza have provided. Unfairly construing discrimination from a news brief is a tasteless use of Comment space. Rather than starting a food fight, working to end the ban which limits our culinary options would be much more productive. Until then, better luck with your future comments.

B. Jacquemotte
U3 Arts

Ed. note: We have letters that are too long from Ann Perry and Karen Ann Alinavskas—come and chop them down. Also, Lisa Grushcow, come say hi.

All readers are welcome to submit letters under 300 words. Add your name, program, year and telephone number. Anonymity can be provided; talk to an editor beforehand. Opinions can be expressed in the form of a Hyde Park, no more than 500 words.



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classified ads

Ads may be placed through the Daily business office, Room B-17, Union Building, 9h00-14h00. Deadline is 14h00, two working days prior to publication.

McGill Students (with valid ID): \$3.50 per day, 4 or more consecutive days, \$2.50 per day. McGill Employees (with staff card) \$4.50 per day, 4 or more consecutive days, \$3.50 per day. All others: \$5.00 per day, or \$4.00 per day for 4 or more consecutive days. (Prices do not include applicable GST or PST). For more information, please visit our office in person or call 398-6790 - **WE CANNOT TAKE CLASSIFIED ADS OVER THE PHONE.**

PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD CAREFULLY WHEN IT APPEARS IN THE PAPER. The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damage due to errors. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

1 - Housing

4 1/2 to sublet: Milton & Hutchison, May-August, 2 bedrooms \$250 each, negotiable. Furnished, laundry, balcony, bright & clean! Option to renew. Call 284-3313.

4 1/2 to sublet with option to renew. On Durocher at Pine, close to gym and campus, bright, large rooms, clean, wood floors. Call anytime 848-0295.

MUST SUBLET large 1 1/2 ASAP with option. 11th floor, large windows, great views, 1 block from McGill, (un)furnished, hardwood floors, laundry, indoor parking, excellent building security, very negotiable!! 849-4813.

Condo to share - 5 1/2 furnished renovated, loft-style, exposed brick/pine, BBQ, sundeck, backyard, washer/dryer, fireplace, 5 min. to McGill \$400/mo. all included, parking available. Tel.: 849-0932.

Sublet 4 1/2, May 1-Aug. 31, option to renew. Atwater Metro. Near dep., IGA. Laundry, storage. Clean, quiet. \$620 negotiable. Also dresser, desk, night table for sale. 939-3423.

Bright, clean one bedroom apartment for sublet. Fully furnished. Within five minute walk of McGill. Stanley Street. Security locked building. Rent \$275-\$300. Phone 284-9453.

Huge 2 1/2, newly renovated, full kitchen, full bathroom, bright, hardwood floors, balcony, immaculately kept, prestigious area. Sublet May 1-Aug. 31, Option to renew. Very negotiable. 934-6037.

Pine & Coloniale: 4 1/2 to share (sublet) with 1 other. 2 rooms avail. \$190 ea. May 1-Aug. 31. Couples welcome. Call Laura 499-0910.

Summer Sublet: 3 1/2, McGill Ghetto, heat, hot water, electricity, clean, bright, great view, carpet and hardwood floors, near metro and shopping. Call 987-0932.

To Sublet: 1 bedr. in a 2 bedr. very cozy apt. on Ste. Famille for May-August. Price negotiable. Please phone 844-7683 any time; leave a message.

To sublet large 2 1/2 May 1-Aug. 31. Mountain and Penfield. Bright, clean, quiet, furnished. Laundry in building. Rent negotiable. Call Daniel 286-2404.

Excellent Summer Sublet. Huge 5 1/2 two blocks from Prince Arthur/St Laurent. To floors furnished, laundry, heat included. May-August. 3 Bedrooms only 675/mo. call 284-0083.

4 1/2 to sublet and option to renew. Milton and St. Urbain, close to St. Laurent and shopping. Great landlord. Call 849-3796.

Sherbrooke & Hutchison, condo built in 1988, 2 or 3 bedrooms, 5 appliances, air conditioned, garden, sundeck, garage extra, \$1,000. 340-1884.

Rooms for Rent in large house, Pine near University. Kitchen, living room, pool room, washer/dryer, heating/electricity included. \$275 negotiable. Call Brian (287-9832) 522 Pine.

Roommate wanted for April 1st to share large, beautiful 8 1/2 with 3 others. Near du Parc and Van Horne. \$175 heat included. Woman preferred. Call 948-4284.

Roommate Wanted to Share comfortable 5 1/2. Outremont wood floors, high ceilings, two balconies. Available April/May '93 to April/May '94 or to Sept. '93. Rent \$330 + phone. Call 948-3039. Ask for James. Queer, Queer + only.

2 - Movers/Storage

Moving/Storage. Closed van or truck. local and long distance. Ott-Tor-Van-NY-Fla. 7 days 24 hours. Cheap. Steve 735-8148.

3 - Help Wanted

If you are experienced in teaching English, have excellent English skills, a degree in TESL or English and are an independent worker, Call Lily at 340-3584.

Summer openings throughout Montreal in marketing dept. of national firm. No door-to-door or telemarketing. Guaranteed pay, and increases with incentives. No exp., flex hours, work in a fun environment. Montreal 731-0335/West Island 697-2988.

French family looking for a dynamic girl as live-in English-tutor / babysitter during July & August. For 3 nice children. Includes private room. Home in Laval on riverfront near commuter train station. 689-0422.

Summer Jobs \$5,000-20,000. New Videos. Teach house painting for self (not a company). 1-800-2-MANAGE.

Major International Corporation has full time summer work available in Montreal as well as other cities across Canada - Call 747-7281.

MODELS WANTED. Creative Photos Studio is currently holding free test shoots (photo sessions) for aspiring male and female models. For interview call: 874-7624. Please leave message.

5 - Typing Services

Success to all students in '93. WordPerfect 5.1. Term papers, resumés. 24 yrs. experience. \$1.75 double space, 7 days/week. Rapid service. On campus - Peel/Sherbrooke. Paulette Vigneault or Roxanne 288-9638, 288-0016.

RESUMÉS by MBA's. Student rates. Better Business Bureau Member. 3000+ students served. Owner worked for Procter & Gamble, Heinz and General Foods. PRESTIGE (on Guy) 939-2200.

WORDPROCESSING. 937-8495 Term papers, resumés, manuscripts, correspondence (Laser Printer) 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. (Atwater).

Need your term paper or C.V. done professionally on Word Processing? English or French. Delivery available. Call Fran anytime at 624-6932.

WORD PROCESSING (WP5.1) Fast reliable, accurate. Term papers, essays, résumé, correspondence, address labels, mailing lists, form letters, etc. Spell check, editing. Peel Metro 277-1400 (24 hrs.)

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WORD-PROCESSING: on laser printer, WordPerfect 5.1. Term papers, theses, CVs, etc. in English/French. Reliable, experienced. On McGill campus. 484-5407 evenings or leave message.

Accurate and prompt word processing with laser printing: term papers, theses, reports, resumés (editing, style suggestions, pick-up and delivery available). Alan: 289-9518.

6 - Services Offered

Do you need dental work? If so, can you come to Boston, May 5-8? All expenses covered plus some dental treatment free. Call Eve 488-4842.

SEEKING SUMMER / FULL-TIME

EMPLOYMENT provide yourself with lists of addressed labels containing 200 names of prominent Montreal Companies where you can forward your C.V.'s 696-7894 after 7:00 pm.

Free Headshot Sessions for actors, actresses, musicians, comedians, etc. For a limited time only. For appointment call Creative Photos, 874-7624. Please leave a message.

Editing/Tutoring by English Ph.D. Essays and theses in English, Social Sciences and Humanities. 933-8652.

WORK IN CALIFORNIA: Full time or summer, send \$2.00 for info, Oceanside, Dept. MD, P.O. Box 156, Lachine, Québec H8S 4A6.

Get an 'A' in French! French Tutor, linguistic major, French mother tongue. Reasonable rates. Call 845-5111.

Macintosh Tutoring: From basics to high end applications. Microsoft Word, FreeHand, PageMaker, File Management, etc. Phone: 457-3639 (leave message).

MEN IT CAN BE DONE! Horace Stokes did it last night! Write for photographic evidence: Mrs. H. Stokes, 14, Belmont Crescent, Portugal.

7 - Articles For Sale

Furniture for sale: 90% off price paid. Solabel 350\$, Coffee-table 200\$ Very good condition. Call at: 289-8598.

WEDDING GOWNS BANKRUPTCY LIQUIDATION. 50%-80% Off. Also: Bridesmaids gowns (can be used for graduation) 748-6053.

Moving - Must sell: Twin mattress & boxspring, good condition - Free! Also, oak desk \$25 & oak 5-drawer dresser \$40. Phone 277-1172.

20 Macintosh Plus Computers with 1 Megabyte available. Price is negotiable. Call 443-1392.

Unbelievable Deal: 3-piece matching couches, jumbo desk, TV/VCR stand, IKEA bookshelf, Queen size waterbed. Top condition. Best offer. Marni 985-2954.

MOVING. Must sell: large antique oak dresser, old oak desk, big, grey & black futon couch. Very good condition. OIGA: 287-9091 (h), 398-6790 (w).

Dorel car seat: Best offer. 398-6790 Tues. or Thurs. Ask for Marian.

386/40, 40MB, VGA Colour Complete System \$975, 120MB Hard Disk \$310, SVGA Monitor \$340. Sales, Service & Support, Call Crown Computer Inc., 683-3853.

8 - To Give Away

McGILL NIGHTLINE

PREDICTIONS: The next Nescafé installment?!! 398-6246.

11 - Lost & Found

Found - A brown sweater on Friday, March 18 - on McTavish near Sherbrooke. Please call 937-22-90.

12 - Personal

Graduate male student, 5'-8" fair colour, dark hair, Single, unattached, sincere, seeks attractive girl 18-25 y for permanent relationship. Please contact 5055 Roslyn #2, Montreal, H3W 2L7. 342-2184 (message).

13 - Lessons/Courses

Score well on the LSAT, GMAT, or GRE! Our preparation courses which use a unique approach have been used successfully by thousands since 1979. Call 1-800-567-7737.

14 - Notices

Canadian Party for Renewal. Come discuss the call to found the party. Politically empower the people so that they can control their lives. **Wednesday 12:30-2 pm.** Shalner Bldg. Rm. B-10.

THE EXAM DROP-IN IS OPEN! Every weekday 1-4 pm. Redpath Library, main entrance, Room 07A. Get tips on how to cope with stress, how to write exams, how to survive the exam period. Informal, no appointments, no fees. McGill Chaplaincy, 398-4104.

Want to Talk? LBGM (Lesbians, Bisexuals, Gays of McGill) sponsors two discussion groups at the Yellow Door, 3625 Aylmer (above Milton) on Fridays. A coming out support group meets at 5:30, and a discussion group meets at 7. A great way to find out about yourself & others.

Myth: A woman claims to have been raped, but is seen at a bar/party the next night - she must be lying.
Fact: Everyone deals with trauma differently. There is no single method for dealing with sexual assault.
Believing the myths= attitude.

Perpetuating the myths= sexual assault.
McGill Sexual Assault Centre
398-2700.

Confused or Curious? LBGM (Lesbians, Bisexuals, Gays of McGill) has re-started peer counselling. Anyone interested in LBGM and/or finding out about their sexuality can drop by Shalner Room 417, or call 398-6822. Hours are 7 to 10, Monday through Friday. We're here for you!

15 - Volunteers

We are looking for individuals who are interested in learning more about alcohol and alcoholism and willing to participate in an experiment. Participants will be eligible for a \$500 cash prize to be raffled off at the end of the experiment. Interested? Call Rike at 523-6477.

Women's Health Diet Stress! Healthy young females (16-35) needed for paid study on these issues. Call 398-6136 if interested.

16 - Musicians

Looking for Band to play at wedding. Demo tape required. André or Nicole 939-5942.

The McGill Daily

Final Issue for this semester: **APRIL 8**

Advertising Deadlines: **APRIL 07, 5 PM** (for regular display ads); **APRIL 20, 5 PM** (for camera-ready material & classified ads).

Amelio's Luncheon Special
\$3.99
Spaghetti with meat or tomato sauce, salad, & tea or coffee.
11:30 am-2 pm
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"The best chicken & ribs in the world"
3498 Parc Ave.
(corner Milton)
LUNCH MENU
noon - 4 p.m.
\$4.95
starting from
includes soup, or tomato juice, coffee, tea, soft drink or milk
STUDENT SPECIAL
10% DISCOUNT
after 4 p.m. with ID card
Group Reservations
987-0011 • DELIVERY • 987-0012
minimum order \$6.00
Hours: Sunday to Wednesday 11 a.m. to 2 a.m.
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FULLY LICENSED - OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK



Va-va-va-vroom!

\$11,500 Buckle yourself into the new Golf and get ready for some of the best fun you can have sitting down. Not only because the new Golf has terrifically comfy seats and room for 5 adults, but also because the Golf's got va-va-

va-vroom. New, more powerful engines (including an available 2.0 litre 115 hp), rack and pinion steering and independent MacPherson strut front suspension combine to give that solid, precise, German engineered, stick-to-

the-road-and-burn-it-up feeling. In other words, the new Golf is as hot as its completely redesigned curves look. But if you think the Golf costs a bundle, maybe you'd better take a seat: it starts at only \$11,500! At that price, it may

offer more fun for the buck than any other car in its class. So don't just sit there! Come sit in the new Golf today!

THE NEW
Golf



Please note the price is based on MSRP for 2-door CL model with 5-speed manual transmission. 4-door GL model shown. Options, freight, dealer prep and taxes extra. Dealer may sell for less.